



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho State Department of Education

March 4, 2010

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SUPERINTENDENT LUNA AWARDS LEP EDUCATORS, PROGRAMS OF THE YEAR

BOISE – Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna today recognized the work of four educators and two schools that have made great strides in working with Limited English Proficient (LEP) and migrant students.

“These educators and programs serve as great examples of the excellent work I see as I visit schools across Idaho,” Superintendent Luna said. “Through these awards, we are able to recognize the great work of these educators and communities and share their success stories with others.”

Through the federally funded LEP program, the State Department of Education created the Idaho LEP Educator of the Year and Program of Excellence awards to recognize those making strides in achievement among LEP students and to share their best practices with other schools across Idaho. The Department also awarded the 2010 Migrant Family Liaison of the Year Award.

The LEP Educator of the Year recipients will receive \$1,000 each; the LEP Programs of Excellence will receive \$2,500 each. The Migrant Family Liaison of the Year will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the National Migrant Education Conference. Superintendent Luna presented the awards at the annual LEP/Migrant Education Conference.

The following is a list of recipients and a brief description of why they won the awards.

Recipients of the 2010 Idaho LEP Educator of the Year Award:

- **Administrator Award Recipient: Tim Rosandick, Superintendent of Homedale School District.**
Rosandick’s leadership, expertise, and active involvement in the evaluation and development of the Homedale School District’s LEP program have been instrumental in its success. Under his leadership, the district has significantly increased the number of LEP students making AYP in reading and math, exceeding the state average among LEP students and also earning a State Board of Education Exceptional Growth Award.
- **Teacher Award Recipient: Olivia Lynn Tate, ESL teacher, Mountain View High School, Meridian School District.**
As the English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Mountain View High, Tate works effectively and collaboratively with her fellow teachers to ensure her students have every opportunity to access and succeed in the general content areas. Tate has had the joy of helping her LEP students become involved in school, reach graduation, and go on to postsecondary education. Tate shares her expertise through presentations and in-service trainings focusing on culture, instructional practices, language acquisition, modification strategies for LEP students, and much more.

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- **Paraprofessional Award Recipient: Dulfia Vasquez, Bilingual Paraprofessional, Dietrich School, Dietrich School District**

Vasquez has more than 18 years of experience teaching in Idaho and Mexico. She is known for her professionalism and ongoing desire to stay current with educational research and best practices. Her greatest strength is her constant advocacy for Migrant and LEP students and their families, which are seen in the form of interpreting/translating, cultural mediation, parent education, and staff education. However, Vasquez's greatest reward comes in seeing her LEP and Migrant students graduate from high school and enroll in postsecondary education with many of them earning scholarships.

Recipients of the 2010 Idaho LEP Program of Excellence Award:

- **Elementary Program Award: Wendell Elementary School, Wendell School District**

Wendell Elementary School's *English as a New Language (ENL)* philosophy begins and ends with the word "collaboration." They firmly believe that English Language Learner (ELL) students can best be served if every staff member, every teacher, and every administrator becomes an enthusiastic stakeholder in the lives of each ENL student and family. Wendell Elementary understands that the ELL students' academic needs are crucial, and must be accompanied by wise and compassionate attention to physical, psychological, cultural, and linguistic needs.

- **Secondary Program Award: Mountain View High School, Meridian School District**

The philosophy of Mountain View High School's LEP program is based on the belief that LEP students are best served by addressing the unique academic needs of each student, collaborating and communicating with LEP families, and by supporting content area teachers within the building. At Mountain View High, students are supported through the creation of individualized, appropriate education plans designed to enhance students' language and academic learning, as well as provide for their social and cultural growth. The school helps foster successful and productive students by creating collaborative communities with authentic parent involvement and communication, meaningful staff development and instructional support, and a belief that serving LEP students does not stop at the door of the LEP classroom.

Recipient of the 2010 Migrant Family Liaison of the Year Award:

- **Mary Lou Olivas, Twin Falls School District**

Olivas was recognized as the 2010 Migrant Family Liaison of the Year. She has served as a migrant family liaison for 34 years. In her role, she provides services to approximately 70 migrant students during the regular school year and more than 100 students during the summer months.

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